CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Pyrites Supply Situation	DATE DISTR.	27 March 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	6
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Pyrites Requirements

1. Czechoslovakia's yearly requirements of pyrites at the beginning of 1952 were estimated at 360,000 tons, based on a sulphur content of 40%. Of this tonnage, approximately 280,000 tons were to cover the requirements of the chemical industry and 80,000 tons the requirements of the paper and cellulose industry. The following is a list of individual plants of both industries, together with their capacity.

   a. The chemical industry.

      (1) The Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production, Usti nad Labem. An old acid plant equipped with Lurgi mechanical furnaces plus a new flash roasting plant. Total requirements 4,500 tons of pyrites per month.

      (2) The Laeebni Works, Kolin. An old acid plant equipped with mechanical furnaces plus a new flash roasting plant. Total requirements, 2,000 tons of pyrites per month.

      (3) The Hrusov Chemical Works at Ostrava. The old mechanical furnaces are being dismantled and only the new flash roasting plant is now operating. Total requirements, 4,500 tons of pyrites per month.

      (4) The Johan David Starok enterprise. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Requirements of pyrites, 600 tons per month, mostly for superphosphate.

      (5) The Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production, Petrovice. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Requirements of pyrites, 600 tons per month.

      (6) A chemical plant in Postorna, near Breclav. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Requirements of pyrites, 1,000 tons per month.

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					

(Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

(7) The Lucebni Works, Prerov. The existing plant is equipped with Lurgi type mechanical furnaces and requires 1,500 tons of pyrites per month. The new acid plant which has now been completed has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces and is capable of handling 3,000 tons of pyrites per month. Total works pyrites requirements, 4,500 tons per month.

(8) Synthesia, Semtin. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Pyrites requirements, 750 tons per month.

(9) A chemical plant in Chrudim. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Pyrites requirements, 350 tons per month.

(10) The Dynamit Corporation, Bratislava. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Pyrites requirements, 4,500 tons per month.

(11) The Vah Chemical Works, Zilina. Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Pyrites requirements, 1,000 tons per month.

(12) A chemical plant at Kostolany nad Hornadom.[2] Has Lurgi type mechanical furnaces. Pyrites requirements, 500 tons per month.

b. The paper and cellulose industry.

(1) The South Bohemian Paper Mills, Vetrni u C. Krumlova. Pyrites requirements, 450 tons per month.

(2) The Vltavsky Mlyn Paper Mills, Loucovice, o Kaplice. Pyrites requirements, 250 tons per month.

(3) The West Bohemian Paper Mills, Pilsen. Pyrites requirements, 250 tons per month.

(4) The Krkonose Paper Mills, Hostinne. Pyrites requirements, 270 tons per month.

(5) A paper factory at Pisek. Pyrites requirements, 250 tons per month.

(6) The Jindrichov Paper Mills, Jindrichov na Mor. Pyrites requirements, 220 tons per month.

(7) The Lukavice Paper Mills, Lukavice. Pyrites requirements, 120 tons per month.

(8) The Vratimov Paper Mills, Vratimov u Ostravy, a cellulose factory. Pyrites requirements, 750 tons per month.

(9) The Celulosa factory at Zilina, a cellulose factory. Pyrites requirements 1,000 tons per month.

(10) A cellulose factory at Poprad. Pyrites requirements, 800 tons per month.

(11) The Celulozova factory at Turciansky Svaty Martin, a cellulose factory. Pyrites requirements, 800 tons per month.

(12) The Supra paper and cellulose factory at Ruzomberok. Pyrites requirements, 800 tons per month.

(13) A paper and cellulose factory at Harmanec.[3] Pyrites requirements, 300 tons per month.

(14) A paper and cellulose factory at Gemerska Horka,[3] near Ruzomberok. Pyrites requirements, 450 tons per month.

(15) The Solo paper and cellulose factory at Ruzomberok. Pyrites requirements, 1,000 tons per month.

Pyrites Imports in 1951

2. The following amounts of pyrites were imported during 1951 from the countries listed:

[redacted] 25X1

c. Yugoslavia, 25,000 tons, representing the balance remaining on the 1950 contract; and 12,000 tons, ceded to Czechoslovakia by Poland and East Germany.

[redacted] 25X1

e. Bulgaria, 10,000 tons. Czechoslovakia had hoped to receive 20,000 to 30,000 tons, but the Bulgarians were unable to supply them because 15,000 to 20,000 tons are now required annually for the new acid plant built for them by the USSR.

f. Rumania, 25,000 tons. This is a flotation ore with 42 to 44% sulphur and a high arsenic content. It is used in the flash roasting plants. This ore comes from the mines at Baja Mara and Baja Sprie in Transylvania, near Valea Lui Mihai.

[redacted] 25X1

3. Production by the Chvaletice pyrites plant in 1951 was 50,000 tons, so Czechoslovakia obtained a total of 233,000 tons from all sources during that year. The original import plan for 1951 had provided for a total of 120,000 tons and the balance of approximately 240,000 tons was to be covered by the supply of about 210,000 tons from Chvaletice and by eating, to some extent, into stocks. In 1950, S. Rada, the Vice-Minister in charge of the mining industry (an old Party member who has subsequently had been shot by the Soviets for incompetence and sabotage at Chvaletice) had given a definite undertaking to supply a total of 300,000 tons of pyrites from Chvaletice during 1951. Rada's figures on future production at Chvaletice were accepted by the Ministry of Industry and by Chemapol, but, owing to the inherent incompetence of the planners and the delayed delivery of plant and equipment, the total quantity delivered amounted to only 50,000 tons. The resulting gap in the supply of pyrites was partly bridged by drawing on accumulated stocks and by reducing production at certain chemical plants - probably those producing superphosphate.

4. As it became increasingly clear that Chvaletice, in spite of having been given priority over all other projects, would not produce even half the tonnage promised by Rada, every effort was made to obtain supplies from outside sources. The National Bank, which a few months previously had refused to provide dollars for the purchase of pyrites, was prepared by April to provide any currency necessary to obtain supplies. Intermediaries were encouraged to make offers, and if they were able to deliver they could more or less dictate their own prices and conditions. Stocks at the various chemical factories were reduced to a hand to mouth basis. The Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production at Usti nad Labem, one of the most important, sent its own men to Chvaletice to await the loading of the trains in order to ride with them to Usti nad Labem and thus prevent any delay or damage during the journey.

5. The fact that the various intermediaries involved were able to bring in pyrites in considerable amounts from abroad [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] 25X1 when it became clear that normal sources and trade channels were not going to suffice, indicates that Czechoslovakia was not completely helpless in that situation. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

Current and Future Pyrites Supply Prospects. 25X1

6. The following are the prospects for current and future supply of pyrites from various sources:

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b. Yugoslavia: In April 1952 Chemapol was negotiating with the Yugoslavs but since the latter demanded coke, which the Czechs were unable to supply, the negotiations were broken off.

[redacted] 25X1

d. Bulgaria: In view of Bulgaria's needs for her own newly built acid plant, it is unlikely that more than 10 to 15,000 tons will be available for delivery to Czechoslovakia.

e. Rumania: It is believed that not more than 34,000 tons will be available.

f. Albania: In December 1951, Chemapol received two carloads (40 tons) of pyrites from Albania as a sample. The ore was roasted at the Hrusov works, was delivered run of mine and was said to be of excellent quality with about 46% sulphur. The deposits are high up in the mountains and the ore is brought to Durres by truck. There is no hope of exploiting the deposits on any but the smallest scale unless very considerable investments are made in mining equipment and transportation.

g. Brasy, near Pilsen. This area had deposits of low grade material believed to be similar to but somewhat better than at Chvaletice, and they are now being opened up. They are said to be easier to exploit than at Chvaletice, but it is doubted whether any pyrites will become available from them for at least another year, if then.

h. It is estimated that Chvaletice will produce some 150,000 tons of pyrites during 1952, containing 8 to 12% moisture and 42% sulphur, rising to a maximum of 200,000 tons in 1953. Since the washing plant there is not yet completed, the present capacity is not known. When completed, it will be capable of treating sufficient mineral to yield 300,000 tons of pyrites per year. The crushing and screening plant has a similar capacity. Raw schist as mined at Chvaletice contains an average of about 15% pyrites or approximately 8% sulphur. It has been found necessary to put the mineral through the washing plant three times in order to concentrate it to 42% sulphur.

7. The extent to which the shortage of pyrites had interfered with production is not definitely known. It is known, however, that the plants at Zilina, Ruzomberok (Solo) and Poprad were completely closed down in April, 1952. Whether these plants have now resumed production or whether additional plants have been closed down is not known.

8. It is fairly certain that the new plant at Prerov is now completed. The acid plant at Neratovice is also thought to be nearing completion. The comparatively new plant at Kostolany, near Kosice, will probably be extended in order to provide acid for the newly-built heavy industrial plants in Slovakia.

9. Czechoslovakia imports from Eastern [redacted] Germany about 5,000 tons of iron oxide each year for the synthetic oil plants at Most. When spent, the material is delivered to Usti nad Labem and mixed with pyrites before roasting. 25X1

10. For the artificial fibre industry, Czech requirements are approximately 15,000 tons of elemental sulphur per year, while the rubber industry needs an additional 7,000 tons, thus giving a total yearly requirement of 22,000 tons. Supplies have been previously received from [redacted] Eastern Germany, Poland and the USSR. The [redacted] three are said to have been extracted from spent oxide. Sulphur from Eastern Germany came from the synthetic oil plants at Bitterfeld, Schwartzheide and Ruhland. In 1951 some 5,000 tons were supplied by the USSR [redacted] The Stalin Works at Most are now extracting sulphur from the gasses at the rate of about 7,000 tons per year. 25X1 25X1 25X1

11. The Central Planning Office uses the following figures for its calculations:
For 100 kg. of monohydrate - 37 kg. of sulphur.
For 100 kg. of sulphite cellulose - 14 kg. of sulphur.
For 100 kg. of 16% superphosphate - 35 kg. of monohydrate.

12. As a result of Chemapol's policy to cover adequately the pyrites requirements, some 38 officials of the organization were dismissed in April, 1952. The general manager, (fnu) Sada, was sent on forced labor but was subsequently released and in October resumed his previous job as professor of economics at Prague University. His successor as general manager of Chemapol is a certain Krejca, who until 1951 was a workman in the chemical works at Usti nad Labem. He then attended a course in Prague for reliable Party members chosen for subsequent promotion to responsible positions, and was posted to Chemapol to gain experience. In July 1951 he was appointed General Manager. His assistant is a certain Eng. Hloch, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The present Commercial Manager of Chemapol in place of Klir is Lubomir Pesl, who has been with Chemapol since its formation and was previously with the plant at Usti and with Chemicky Zavody.

13. Rokycansky, the previous head of the Security Department, was sentenced to forced labor in 1951. His successor is one Ulc, an old Party member and previously a workman in the V.I. Lenin works at Pilsen. Most of Rokycansky's staff were dismissed with him but the names of their successors are not known. Each head of a department at Chemapol (this is true of the other concerns too) has with him an ex-workman who is being trained to take over the job.

14. Chemical industry information.

a. The shortage of rasorit (raw borax) required by the factory at Sokolov which produces ferro-alloys, calcium, carbide, nitrochalk, etc., is causing difficulties. The Czechs are members of the borax pool in London, and are said to benefit thereby.

b. It is said that most of the ore from the USSR for Czechoslovakia is now being transported via the Black Sea and the Danube to Komarno, thus reducing the pressure at Cerna pri Cope (R49/E90).

c. Adequate supplies of chrome ore are being received from the USSR and Albania.

d. Adequate supplies of carbon and graphite electrodes are now received from the USSR, Poland and East Germany.

1. [redacted] Comment: Johan David Stark plants have previously been reported as being located at Brasy, Dolni Rychnov and Kaznejov. 25X1

2. [redacted] Comment: Possibly the Dynamit-Nobel Chemical Works. 25X1

3. [redacted]

4. [redacted]

5. [redacted]

6. [redacted]

7. [redacted] Comment: Presumably calcium nitrate. 25X1

8. [redacted] Comment: Possibly Borax, Consolidated. 25X1